

Ageing:

Weight:

Juveniles commence post-juvenile moult of body feathers before departing breeding area, but may not be completed until early Spring arrival in Australia;

20.5 – 27.0 g

- Partial pre-alternate moult occurs late in the first austral Summer or early Autumn with some replacing a few outer primaries prior to commencing their first return northern migration;
- Attain adult non-breeding plumage through a complete moult in their second austral Spring aged followed by a partial moult to their first breeding plumage commencing prior to their second north migration late in their second year;
- Age of first breeding is unknown, but suspected to be late in second year;

22.0 – 26.0 g

- First Immatures (1) are separable from non-breeding adults (2+) until late in the first austral Spring by many retained juvenile inner-wing coverts and tertials which are worn but still have distinct pale fringes and which contrast with fresh grey-brown upperparts;
- First immature breeding plumage in the late austral Summer / Autumn is duller than adult breeding plumage and they have retained very worn juvenile remiges, so they can be separated from adults (2+) which have fresh remiges;
- Very few first year birds over-Winter in Australia.

Sexing:

There is no sexual dimorphism in plumage or size.